

# BOOK REVIEWS

THE WESTERN JOURNAL OF MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

**STANDARD ORTHOPAEDIC OPERATIONS—A Guide for the Junior Surgeon**—John Crawford Adams, MD(Lond), MS(Lond), FRCS (Eng), Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon, St. Mary's Hospital, London; Civil Consultant in Orthopaedic Surgery, Royal Air Force; Production Editor, *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, Churchill Livingstone Medical Division, Longman, Inc., 19 West 44th St., New York City (10036), 1976. 384 pages, \$29.50.

J. Crawford Adams is a well known orthopedist who has previously written outstanding texts for medical students on orthopedics and fractures.

It is not often that a highly experienced and articulate surgeon sets out to describe those operative techniques that have proved successful in his practice. The operative procedures are well detailed by description and simple drawings, but the heart of the text is made up of the "comments" in which he describes the essentials and pitfalls of the procedure and provides a glimpse of his opinions and philosophy. The text is for the most part what the author intends—it is a personal statement, complementary to standard texts and not encyclopedic. It is written primarily for orthopedic registrars or residents and contains a good chapter on surgical approaches and an outstanding chapter on basic orthopedic techniques.

While a surgeon-in-training will benefit from the operative descriptions, this portion of the text will be equally enjoyed by an experienced orthopedist for its clear style, appropriate references and interesting selection of operative procedures.

The appeal of this text will be nearly limited to those working in orthopedics and rehabilitation, although general surgeons may on occasion find it useful.

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**FUNDAMENTALS OF ABDOMINAL AND PELVIC ULTRASONOGRAPHY**—Volume 6 in the Series: *Saunders Monographs in Clinical Radiology*. George R. Leopold, MD, Associate Professor of Radiology; Head, Division of Ultrasound, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine; and W. Michael Asher, MD, & Cdr, MC USN, Division of Ultrasound, Naval Regional Medical Center, San Diego; Clinical Assistant Professor of Radiology, University of California, San Diego, School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia (19105), 1975. 267 pages, with 254 illustrations, \$21.50.

The monograph consists of 12 chapters dealing with fundamentals of scanning techniques and anatomic interpretation. The basic physics of ultrasonic wave propagation and image formation has been purposefully excluded from the text.

In addition to an opening chapter dealing with the technique of ultrasound scanning, subsequent chapters contain a specific section on examination methods pertinent to the organ or organ system under discussion. Each chapter then proceeds with a description of the related normal anatomy, followed by well-illustrated descriptions of pathologic processes. Numerous references to potential diagnostic pitfalls constitute one of the text's strongest merits.

The chapters sequentially detail scanning of the liver, gallbladder, pancreas, spleen, urinary tract, retroperitoneum, aorta, pelvis and the gravid uterus. Bistable images form the bulk of the illustrations—as might be anticipated in any work on B-scan ultrasonography written at the time this monograph was assembled. The

authors, prospectively recognizing this drawback, have dedicated chapter 11 to gray scale imaging. Unfortunately, though the chapter is admirably written, its scope could not adequately cover the subject in view of what has transpired during the past 18 months in the field of diagnostic ultrasonography. It was the authors' own "inescapable conclusion . . . that gray scale imaging increases the amount of information that can be recorded in scanning." Thus, most of the illustrations do not reflect the optimum in terms of the current state of the art. However, in the opinion of this reviewer, this does not alter the value and pertinence of the authors' descriptions of diagnostic findings based on bistable images.

Real-time scanning, which has been employed for a number of years and which is more recently an important ancillary (sometimes primary) technique in ultrasonic evaluations, is not considered in the monograph.

Three additional attributes are worth considering. The monograph is well organized and easy to read. The authors' own basic research forms the foundation of most of their chapters.

Second, the book contains 12 excellent colorplates of cross-sectional and parasagittal anatomy, with accompanying line drawings and bistable ultrasonograms.

Finally, the last chapter offers 17 case studies with related questions and comments. Both bistable and gray scale illustrations are employed. These cases are carefully prepared and offer a good test of the understanding of the reader.

The illustrations are not sufficiently current and the monograph does not have sufficient depth to serve as a reference text for physicians specialized in diagnostic ultrasonography of the abdomen and pelvis. However, the fine organization, easy readability, specific references to potential diagnostic pitfalls and well-conceived self-testing chapter make the text worthwhile reading for medical students, technologists, residents or referring physicians interested in obtaining basic information upon which to build.

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**PRINCIPLES OF CLINICAL CARDIOLOGY—An Analytical Approach**—Arthur Selzer, MD, Chief of Cardiology and Director of Cardiac Laboratories, Presbyterian Hospital of Pacific Medical Center, San Francisco; Clinical Professor of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, and Stanford University School of Medicine. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia (19105), 1975. 735 pages, \$18.50.

Fact-filled, heavily-referenced cardiology texts presenting multiple viewpoints are common, but a cohesive logical approach to heart disease is a rare textbook finding. Dr. Selzer offers the latter in this text. He presents an appropriate and rational approach to clinical cardiology problems as his major aim. He is able to put the patient, the results of diagnostic studies and the natural history of various disease entities into appropriate perspective. Recommendations for the optimal management of heart disease result.

The opening chapters explain his approach and his philosophy and the value and vagaries of the history and physical examination are discussed. He reviews the tools available to enhance the diagnostic capabilities of the clinician. In these latter areas, he discusses radiology,